



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 5554***

LCO No. 2628



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:  
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 10-283 of the  
2 2016 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following  
3 is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

4 (a) (1) Each town or regional school district shall be eligible to apply  
5 for and accept grants for a school building project as provided in this  
6 chapter. Any town desiring a grant for a public school building project  
7 may, by vote of its legislative body, authorize the board of education of  
8 such town to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services  
9 and to accept or reject such grant for the town. Any regional school  
10 board may vote to authorize the supervising agent of the regional  
11 school district to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative  
12 Services for and to accept or reject such grant for the district.  
13 Applications for such grants under this chapter shall be made by the  
14 superintendent of schools of such town or regional school district on  
15 the form provided and in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner  
16 of Administrative Services. The application form shall require the

17 superintendent of schools to affirm that the school district considered  
18 the maximization of natural light, the use and feasibility of wireless  
19 connectivity technology and, on and after July 1, 2014, the school  
20 safety infrastructure criteria, developed by the School Safety  
21 Infrastructure Council, pursuant to section 10-292r, in projects for new  
22 construction and alteration or renovation of a school building. The  
23 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall review each grant  
24 application for a school building project for compliance with  
25 educational requirements and on the basis of categories for building  
26 projects established by the Commissioner of Administrative Services in  
27 accordance with this section. The Commissioner of Education shall  
28 evaluate, if appropriate, whether the project will assist the state in  
29 meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al.  
30 v. William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, or the goals of the 2013  
31 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al.,  
32 as extended. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall  
33 consult with the Commissioner of Education in reviewing grant  
34 applications submitted for purposes of subsection (a) of section 10-65  
35 or section 10-76e on the basis of the educational needs of the applicant.  
36 The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall review each grant  
37 application for a school building project for compliance with standards  
38 for school building projects pursuant to regulations, adopted in  
39 accordance with section 10-287c, and, on and after July 1, 2014, the  
40 school safety infrastructure criteria, developed by the School Safety  
41 Infrastructure Council pursuant to section 10-292r. The Commissioner  
42 of Administrative Services shall regularly consult with the Connecticut  
43 State Data Center at The University of Connecticut to (A) review  
44 projected enrollment figures included in grant applications for school  
45 building projects, and (B) assist the commissioner in performing an  
46 annual regional school capacity assessment that analyzes student  
47 enrollment for each school facility in adjacent school districts. The  
48 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall share the results of the  
49 regional school capacity assessment with each applicant.  
50 Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the Board of Trustees

51 of the Community-Technical Colleges on behalf of Quinebaug Valley  
 52 Community College and Three Rivers Community College and the  
 53 following entities that will operate an interdistrict magnet school that  
 54 will assist the state in meeting the goals of the 2008 stipulation and  
 55 order for Milo Sheff, et al. v. William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, or  
 56 the goals of the 2013 stipulation and order for Milo Sheff, et al. v.  
 57 William A. O'Neill, et al., as extended, as determined by the  
 58 Commissioner of Education, may apply for and shall be eligible to  
 59 receive grants for school building projects pursuant to section 10-264h  
 60 for such a school: [(A)] (i) The Board of Trustees of the Community-  
 61 Technical Colleges on behalf of a regional community-technical  
 62 college, [(B)] (ii) the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State  
 63 University System on behalf of a state university, [(C)] (iii) the Board of  
 64 Trustees for The University of Connecticut on behalf of the university,  
 65 [(D)] (iv) the board of governors for an independent institution of  
 66 higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or the  
 67 equivalent of such a board, on behalf of the independent institution of  
 68 higher education, [(E)] (v) cooperative arrangements pursuant to  
 69 section 10-158a, as amended by this act, and [(F)] (vi) any other third-  
 70 party not-for-profit corporation approved by the Commissioner of  
 71 Education.

72 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2016*) A regional educational service  
 73 center may enter into an agreement with one or more local or regional  
 74 boards of education to provide administrative services related to the  
 75 operation and management of the school district to enable such boards  
 76 to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes. Such  
 77 agreements may include (1) the sharing of administrative staff, and (2)  
 78 the provision of administrative services by regional educational service  
 79 center personnel, such as the management of pupil personnel, data  
 80 collecting and reporting, financial management and business services,  
 81 information technology services, monitoring of compliance with state  
 82 and federal education laws, facilities management, provision of  
 83 teachers and staff, and other services.

84       Sec. 3. Section 10-660 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
85       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

86       The Department of Education shall encourage the use of regional  
87       educational service centers as providers of goods and services for local  
88       and regional boards of education and may award special consideration  
89       to grant applications that indicate the use of services of regional  
90       educational service centers or joint purchasing agreements among  
91       boards of education for the purpose of purchasing instructional or  
92       other supplies, testing materials, special education services, health care  
93       services, [or] food or food services or administrative services.

94       Sec. 4. Section 10-158a of the 2016 supplement to the general statutes  
95       is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
96       *1, 2016*):

97       (a) Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to  
98       establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations  
99       services, programs or activities, special education services, health care  
100       services or alternative education, as defined in section 10-74j, to enable  
101       such boards to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes.  
102       Such arrangements may include the establishment of a committee to  
103       supervise such programs, the membership of the committee to be  
104       determined by the agreement of the cooperating boards. Such  
105       committee shall have the power, in accordance with the terms of the  
106       agreement, to (1) apply for, receive directly and expend on behalf of  
107       the school districts which have designated the committee an agent for  
108       such purpose any state or federal grants which may be allocated to  
109       school districts for specified programs, the supervision of which has  
110       been delegated to such committee, provided such grants are payable  
111       before implementation of any such program or are to reimburse the  
112       committee pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for transportation  
113       provided to a school operated by a cooperative arrangement; (2)  
114       receive and disburse funds appropriated to the use of such committee  
115       by the cooperating school districts, the state or the United States, or

116 given to the committee by individuals or private corporations; (3) hold  
117 title to real or personal property in trust, or as otherwise agreed to by  
118 the parties, for the appointing boards; (4) employ personnel; (5) enter  
119 into contracts; and (6) otherwise provide the specified programs,  
120 services and activities. Teachers employed by any such committee  
121 shall be subject to the provisions of the general statutes applicable to  
122 teachers employed by the board of education of any town or regional  
123 school district. For purposes of this section, the term "teacher" shall  
124 include each professional employee of a committee below the rank of  
125 superintendent who holds a regular certificate issued by the State  
126 Board of Education and who is in a position requiring such  
127 certification.

128 (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, any  
129 board of education may withdraw from any agreement entered into  
130 under subsection (a) of this section if, at least one year prior to the date  
131 of the proposed withdrawal, it gives written notice of its intent to do so  
132 to each of the other boards. Upon withdrawal by one or more boards  
133 of education, two or more boards of education may continue their  
134 commitment to the agreement. If two or more boards of education  
135 continue the arrangement, then such committee established within the  
136 arrangement may continue to hold title to any real or personal  
137 property given to or purchased by the committee in trust for all the  
138 boards of education which entered the agreement, unless otherwise  
139 provided in the agreement or by law or by the grantor or donor of  
140 such property. Upon dissolution of the committee, any property held  
141 in trust shall be distributed in accordance with the agreement, if such  
142 distribution is not contrary to law.

143 (c) If a cooperative arrangement receives a grant for a school  
144 building project pursuant to chapter 173, the cooperative arrangement  
145 shall use the building for which the grant was provided for a period of  
146 not less than twenty years after completion of such project. If the  
147 cooperative arrangement ceases to use the building for the purpose for  
148 which the grant was provided, the Commissioner of Education shall

149 determine whether (1) title to the building and any legal interest in  
 150 appurtenant land reverts to the state or (2) the cooperative  
 151 arrangement reimburses the state an amount equal to ten per cent of  
 152 the eligible school building project costs of the project.

153 (d) Any cooperative arrangement established pursuant to this  
 154 section, or any local or regional board of education which is a member  
 155 of such a cooperative arrangement which transports students to a  
 156 school operated by such cooperative arrangement shall be reimbursed  
 157 in accordance with the provisions of section 10-266m. At the end of  
 158 each school year, any such cooperative arrangement or local or  
 159 regional board of education which provides such transportation shall  
 160 file an application for reimbursement on a form provided by the  
 161 Department of Education.

162 (e) Any local or regional board of education that is a member of a  
 163 cooperative arrangement established pursuant to this section may, for  
 164 purposes of reporting expenditures of the board of education, use the  
 165 total aggregate amount of expenditures of the cooperative  
 166 arrangement related to the activities described in subsection (a) of this  
 167 section as the expenditures of the board of education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-283(a)(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-66o
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	10-158a

***Statement of Purpose:***

To require the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a regional school capacity assessment as part of the application process for school building projects, to authorize regional educational service centers to enter into agreements with school districts to provide administrative services, and to permit school districts to use the

aggregate expenditure data of a cooperative arrangement for purposes of reporting requirements.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*